**November 30, 2012**

[**ICBC branch to focus on trade and investment between China and Peru**](http://www.bnamericas.com/news/banking/icbc-branch-to-focus-on-trade-and-investment-between-china-and-peru)

*BN Americas*

ICBC Peru is the first wholly-owned branch of ICBC opened in South America and will officially open to business once receiving the banking license from the local financial services regulator SBS, the press release reads. The move marks another step in ICBC's expansion in Latin America, as earlier this month Argentina's central bank approved its purchase of an 80% stake in the local unit of South Africa's Standard Bank.

[**Codelco Sees Solid Interest From China for Copper Contracts**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-30/codelco-seeing-solid-interest-from-china-for-copper-contracts.html)

*Bloomberg*

Codelco, the largest copper producer, said there’s “sound and solid” interest from customers in China for next year amid signs of an economic recovery in the world’s biggest market for the metal.

[**Mazda’s Yamanouchi Planning to Expand Mexican Project**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-30/mazda-s-yamanouchi-planning-to-expand-mexican-project.html)

*Bloomberg*

Mazda’s move into Mexico follows similar announcements by Japan’s Honda Motor Co. (7267) and Nissan Motor Co. (7201), which are all seeking lower-cost production facilities to make small cars for North America. Unlike Toyota, Honda and Nissan, Hiroshima, Japan-based Mazda imports all its vehicles sold in the U.S. from Japan, after ending production of Mazda6 sedans in Michigan.

[**Japan's Mitsubishi Corp buys stake in Chile energy Project**](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/29/chile-mitsubishi-aesgener-idUSL1E8MT7ES20121129)

*Reuters*

A subsidiary of Japan's Mitsubishi Corp has bought a 40 percent stake in a $1.3 billion, 532-megawatt thermoelectric project planned in Chile, the plant's majority owner, AES Gener, said on Thursday without disclosing how much the purchase cost.

[**In Japan, Some companies thrives despite Yen’s rise**](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204707104578092242148553654.html?KEYWORDS=tamagawa)

*Wall Street Journal*

A 34% rise in the yen against the dollar over the past five years has delivered a blow to Japan's famed export machine, hastening a wave of offshoring that has contributed to the onset of once unfathomable Japanese trade deficits. Yet a hardy contingent of export-dependent companies have managed not only to survive, but thrive amid currency chaos often blamed for corporate Japan's woes by specialization and innovation.

**November 29, 2012**

[**Orinoquia to export devices to Mercosur with Huawei support**](http://www.laprensademonagas.info/Articulo.aspx?s=4&aid=108478)

La Prensa Monagas

The extending of the assembly lines of Orinoquia Electronic Industry will diversify cellular device models that could be exported to the Southern Common Market (Mercosur). This was announced by the director of Huawei's products and solutions, Francisco Lanna, adding that this will be possible thanks to the technical support and training offered by the Chinese company Huawei in Venezuela. (in spanish)

[**Copper Shortage Seen Extending as China Accelerates: Commodities**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-28/copper-shortage-seen-extending-as-china-accelerates-commodities.html)

Bloomberg

Copper supply shortages will extend into the first half of next year as an accelerating Chinese economy more than doubles the pace of growth in global consumption even as mines extract a record amount of metal. Demand will outpace supply by 316,000 metric tons in the first six months, more than all copper in London Metal Exchange warehouses, before a surplus emerges in the second half, Barclays Plc estimates. Production has lagged behind consumption since 2010, according to the International Copper Study Group. The metal may average $8,300 a ton in the second quarter, 6 percent more than now and the most in a year, according to the median of 21 analyst and trader estimates compiled by Bloomberg.

[**JGC To Take Part In Large Carbon Sequestration Trial**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/ac/tnks/Nni20121129D2811A06.htm)

Nikkei

JGC Corp. has won an order to supply a key facility for a government project aimed at evaluating the safety and cost of carbon capture and storage (CCS). The project is to be carried out in Tomakomai, Hokkaido Prefecture, under the lead of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. Carbon dioxide will be separated from hydrocarbon gas captured from an Idemitsu Kosan Co. oil refinery, then compressed and buried up to 1,000 meters below a hard geographical formation under the nearby seafloor. The project sets out to store up to 200,000 tons of CO2 annually over the three years starting in fiscal 2016. JGC is to deliver a ground facility for collecting and compressing CO2 by 2016. The order from Japan CCS Co., whose shareholders include power companies, is estimated to be worth 5-10 billion ($60-120 million). With most nuclear reactors remaining offline, fossil-fuel power generation is playing a bigger role. Establishing CCS technology early will not only help Japan deal with increased greenhouse gas emissions, but also present new export opportunities for Japanese businesses.

[**Japan Poised For 1st Bilateral Carbon Credit Deals**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/ac/tnks/Nni20121129D2811A02.htm)

Nikkei

Mongolia and Bangladesh will become Japan's first partners in bilateral arrangements that trade Japanese environmental technology for offsets against domestic greenhouse gas emissions. Tentative deals with both countries could be reached as early as next week. The exchanges could help Japan's efforts to curb greenhouse gases while giving Japanese manufacturers greater reach in these two markets. Environment Minister Hiroyuki Nagahama will arrive here Monday for a United Nations conference on climate change. Officials are arranging meetings between Nagahama and his Mongolian and Bangladeshi counterparts. The ministers will agree to launch bilateral committees next April to handle project selection, credit certification and other issues. Japan is expected to sign formal agreements with each country by year's end. Japan has already explored projects in both countries that could lead to emissions credits. These include making coal-fired power plants more efficient and harnessing underground heat for cooling in Mongolia, as well as building gas-turbine combined-cycle power plants in Bangladesh. Japan has been looking for partner countries for several years. Officials expect to reach a deal with Indonesia as early as January.

[**Toshiba Offers Expansive Support For Wind Power Generation**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/ac/tnks/Nni20121129D2811A13.htm)

Nikkei

Toshiba Corp. is launching a broad-based service for companies that want to get into the renewable energy business by building wind power plants. By offering the service, Toshiba hopes to expand sales of generators and other wind power-related equipment that it is currently developing. Toshiba will use its advanced fluid-dynamic analysis technologies to help clients determine the best locations for wind turbines. It will help negotiate contracts with power utilities to connect to the grid. It will provide maintenance and repair services after equipment has been installed, and if needed, it will even help companies procure funding from banks. Last year Toshiba partnered with the South Korean wind turbine maker Unison Co. to make and sell wind power equipment; this June it took a 34% investment stake in that company, becoming its largest shareholder. Unison makes wind turbines with capacities of 750kw and 2,000kw. To facilitate maintenance and repair work in Japan, Toshiba has begun developing turbines using its own generators and other electric machinery parts. It hopes to win its first orders this fiscal year. Toshiba's move came after Japan introduced a feed-in tariff system for renewable energies in July, guaranteeing a fixed price during the next 20 years of 23.1 yen per kilowatt-hour for electricity generated from wind turbines. That provides a major incentive for firms to enter the business of wind power generation, but for smaller-scale operations the hurdles remain high. By offering comprehensive support for building small-to-medium scale wind power plants, Toshiba aims to supply power-generating equipment amounting to 100,000kw in generating capacity over the next three years. That translates into 50 of Unison's 2,000kw wind turbines. The company is also considering using the same business model to expand in the markets of Eastern Europe and South America.

**November 28, 2012**

[**Companies keep eyes on market in Brazil**](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2012-11/27/content_15962319.htm)

China Daily US

Brazil is becoming an increasingly attractive investment destination for China's listed companies, according to the China Association for Public Companies. According to a survey conducted by the association among 200 of its member companies, 20 percent expressed an interest in investing in Brazil's energy sector, while 15 percent were seeking opportunities in the country's mineral industry.

[**Macquarie Mexico REIT Plans $1.2 Billion Initial Offering**](http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-11-26/macquarie-mexico-reit-plans-1-dot-2-billion-initial-offering)

Bloomberg News

Macquarie Group Ltd. (MQG), Australia’s biggest investment bank, plans to raise as much as 16.1 billion pesos ($1.2 billion) in a record initial public offering for Mexico’s real-estate investment trust market.

[**QBE looking at acquisitions to bolster growth in Chile**](http://web4.bnamericas.com/Subscriber/index.jsp?idioma=I&tipoContenido=detalle&pagina=content&idContenido=601929&tipoDocumento=1)

BN Americas

The Chilean unit of Australian insurer QBE is eyeing acquisitions to further expand in the country, local daily El Mercurio reported. The subsidiary, QBE Chile Seguros Generales, aims to take a spot among the top five largest insurers in the country.

[**Dollar Loans To Help Japan Firms Abroad In Emergencies**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/ac/tnks/Nni20121127D2711F02.htm)

Nikkei

The government will launch a program as early as December to provide low-rate dollar loans to companies whose overseas operations are threatened by disasters or other emergencies, The Nikkei learned Tuesday. As a start, Japanese businesses in China struggling with the lingering impact of anti-Japan demonstrations will be eligible for assistance. The program will be set up by expanding a dollar-lending facility that taps the Foreign Exchange Fund Special Account, which manages the nation's foreign reserves. That special account supplies up to 10 trillion yen to the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which funnels the funds to private-sector banks and companies at low rates. Currently, loan eligibility is limited to firms seeking to acquire overseas businesses or concession rights for natural resources. The criteria will be expanded to include companies whose overseas operations are reeling from disasters, riots or other emergency situations.

[**Super Highway Lighting Project Won by Carmanah Technologies**](http://www.dailyfinance.com/2012/11/06/super-highway-lighting-project-won-by-carmanah-tec/?utm_source=BenchmarkEmail&utm_campaign=Nov_15_2012_Email&utm_medium=email)

Daily Finance

In a project valued at over $400,000, Mexican officials have selected the EG500 solar-powered outdoor lighting system to illuminate the country's latest major superhighway, Supervia Poniente. The EG500 solar outdoor lighting system, developed by Carmanah Technologies Corporation (TSX: CMH)(Pink Sheets: CMHXF), represents the company's largest solar outdoor lighting product capable of producing up to 12,500 lumens. Originally slated for AC-powered lighting, Carmanah's proprietary EG500 solution both exceeded the lighting specifications required for the project and presented a compelling off-grid, sustainable lighting solution. The sale was handled by Best Light Mexico and Semex, Carmanah-authorized lighting partners in Mexico.

[**Mizuho, JBIC To Start Y16bn Fund For SMEs' Asian Ops.**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/ac/tnks/Nni20121128D28EE167.htm)

Nikkei

Mizuho Financial Group Inc. and the government-affiliated Japan Bank for International Cooperation will jointly set up a 16 billion yen ($195 million) fund to support the operations of small and midsize domestic firms in Southeast Asia. The move comes at a time when more and more Japanese companies are investing in the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to hedge against growing risks related to their operations in China. The fund will be set up in Singapore, with Mizuho Financial Group investing 125 million U.S. dollars (about 10 billion yen), or slightly more than 60% of the total planned investment. The JBIC will also contribute several billion yen to the fund. Mizuho Financial Group and the JBIC will also encourage regional Japanese banks to invest in the fund to support the activities of their corporate clients in other Asian markets. The fund will primarily invest in joint-venture firms to be established in ASEAN countries such as Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia by small and midsize Japanese firms and their local partners.

**November 27, 2012**

[**China Construction Bank Still Looking to Expand Into Latin America**](http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20121121-710964.html)

*WSJ*

State-run China Construction Bank Corp. is still looking to expand to Latin America and could announce plans to open an office in the region "quite soon," a company executive said. China's second-biggest bank by assets is looking at acquisition targets and expansion opportunities throughout the region but especially in Brazil, said John Weinshank, head of corporate banking and trade finance at China Construction Bank's U.S. branch. Chinese companies are investing heavily in Latin America as they look to develop natural resources needed to fuel the Asian country's rapid growth. One of the biggest Chinese investments in the region was the $7.1 billion deal by state-owned China Petrochemical Corp., or Sinopec, to purchase a 40% stake in Repsol YPF SA's Brazilian unit. In Peru, one of the world's top mineral producers, Chinese companies are developing several copper and iron-ore projects. Together, these projects will require investments of about $11.4 billion, according to figures from Peru's Mines and Energy Ministry. Chinese-owned projects represent about 20% of the total pipeline of investment projects in Peru's mining sector.

[**More than 60 Chilean companies already invest in China**](http://gestion.pe/empresas/mas-60-empresas-chilenas-ya-invierten-china-2052653)

*Gestión*

Worldwide over 1,000 Chilean companies are implementing projects. In recent years they have invested more than U.S. $ 62.716 million abroad. In China alone, the amount reaches up to U.S. $ 280 million. China is the largest trading partner of Chile and its market is very attractive for Chilean direct investment abroad. There is a high interest on the part of Chilean companies as they are having physical and commercial presence in China. According to recent figures from the Directorate General for International Economic Relations (DIRECON) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile, as of December 2011 the stock of direct investment materialized over 60 Chilean companies in China reached U.S. $ 280 million, an amount which represents a 0.45% of total investments abroad. (spanish)

[**Mexico, China textile talks falter; WTO dispute panel eyed**](http://uk.news.yahoo.com/mexico-china-textile-talks-falter-023638847.html)

*Reuters*

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Mexico will likely ask the World Trade Organization to settle a dispute with China over government aid to textile makers after bilateral talks failed to reach a deal, an economy ministry spokesman said on Thursday. Mexico's economy ministry said in a statement that trade officials from both countries had met but that they could not come to an agreement. The ministry said that it still hoped to negotiate a solution, but that it would defend Mexico's interests under WTO rules.

[**Chinese direct investment in Brazil reaches a total of US$24 billion**](http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/2012/11/21/chinese-direct-investment-in-brazil-reaches-a-total-of-us24-billion/)

*Macauhub*

Thirty nine of the 60 direct investment projects by Chinese companies in Brazil worth over US$50 million announced between 2007 and June 2012 are being carried out, according to a survey by the Brazil-China Business Council (CEBC). The survey, which is due to be presented at a CEBC seminar Wednesday in Sao Paulo that includes specialists such as Nicholas Lardy, of the Peterson Institute for International Economics and Luo Xiaopeng, of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, noted that the 39 projects being carried out represent an investment of over US$24 billion.

[**Latin Americanext growth driver for IT Industry: IDC**](http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/info-tech/latin-americanext-growth-driver-for-it-industry-idc/article4136908.ece)

*The Hindu Business Line*

Mumbai, Nov. 26 - Latin America is the next growth driver for Indian information technology services industry, with the country being in the midst of a transformation. Technologies like cloud, mobility, big data and social web are intersecting with economic prosperity and creating a new intelligent economy. This, in turn, is driving the regional information and communications technology ecosystem, according to a study by International Data Corporation (IDC) [...] In technology, IT spending has outgrown the global average by two times or more every year for the last 10 years (2002-2011). The IT market in Latin America is at $124 billion in 2012 and forecasted to grow to $166 billion by 2016.

**November 26, 2012**

[**Mexico hosts Festival of China**](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/life/2012-11/22/content_15950935.htm)

China Daily

China and Mexico were trusted friends and partners of mutual benefit, a senior Chinese political adviser said Friday during the opening ceremony of the Festival of China in Mexico. Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), inaugurated the event together with former Mexican president Vicente Fox Quesada in the central city of Leon. Economic and trade relations were the basis for deepening mutually beneficial cooperation, the senior CPPCC official said, noting Mexico had become China's second largest trading partner and largest export market in Latin America while China was Mexico's second largest trading partner in the world.

[**Exporters adjusting to rising wages**](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/opinion/2012-11/21/content_15946755.htm)

China Daily USA

For years, the abiding view of China has been of a workshop powered by waves of young migrants able to out-compete workers elsewhere in the world because of their low wages. The wage of an average migrant worker in China has quadrupled in US dollar terms since China joined the World Trade Organization at the end of 2001. The average Chinese factory worker now earns more than twice as much as his or her counterpart in Indonesia or Vietnam. Average wages are increasing at a double-digit pace even today, though the Chinese economy is on course to record the lowest annual GDP growth rate this century. If rapid wage growth continues - and former Communist Party of China general secretary Hu Jintao's recent pledge that people's income will double this decade suggests the Chinese government thinks it will - wages in China will soon surpass those in Mexico and start getting close to wages in Brazil.

[**China's economy to expand by 8.4% in Q4**](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2012-11/26/content_15956759.htm)

China Daily

China's economic growth will pick up in the fourth quarter after slowing for seven consecutive quarters, due to booming domestic consumption and increasing infrastructure investment. The economy is expected to grow by 8.4 percent year-on-year in the October-December period, up from the 7.4-percent growth seen in the third quarter, the lowest level since the first quarter of 2009, according to the report released by the Institute of Economic Research of Renmin University of China. The report also forecast that the full-year economic growth will reach 8 percent in 2012, down 1.3 percentage points from 2011.

[**Brazil eyes growing agribusiness in China**](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2012-11/15/content_15933314.htm)

China Daily

The Brazilian Confederation of Agriculture and Livestock (CNA) opened its branch office in Beijing. The move is aimed at introducing more Brazilian agriculture and livestock products into the Chinese market and luring China's State and private enterprises to invest in Brazil, especially in the field of logistics facilities, including storage and transportation. Since 2002, China's imports from Brazil have continued to grow. However, most imported agriculture products focus on the soybean and its byproduct. Abreu advocated the diversification of Brazilian exports to China. "In 2011, Brazil exported about 22.1 million tons of soybeans to China. Besides soybeans, we can provide the Chinese market with other kinds of foods," added Abreu.

[**For Hisense, all eyes are on US profile**](http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/2012-11/23/content_15953723.htm)

China Daily USA

In 2009, China's Hisense Electric Co was trying to get its flat-panel televisions sold at HH Gregg, a chain of home-appliance stores mainly in the US South. But with no brand recognition among American consumers, the company only persuade the retailer to sell three relatively small models. Hisense now is raising its brand awareness in North America. Over the next five years, Hisense USA is likely to pursue mergers and acquisitions in North America, especially in the technology of software development and system integration, the executive said. A production plant in Mexico is already under consideration.

**November 21, 2012**

[**China 2012 FDI inflows slow, stay on track for $100 bln**](http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/11/20/china-economy-fdi-idINDEE8AJ02620121120?type=economicNews)

*Reuters*

China's foreign direct investment is on track to top $100b in 2012 even as the longest run of year-on-year declines in inflows since 2009 extended into October, dragged down by an uncertain outlook for corporate spending as global trade sags. The Commerce Ministry said today that China drew $91.7b in foreign direct investment between January and October, down 3.45% on the same period a year ago, marking the 10th month that aggregate year-to-date flows fell compared with the previous period.

[**BOJ Refrains From Loosening as Analysts See Stimulus in December**](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-11-20/boj-refrains-from-loosening-as-analysts-see-stimulus-in-december.html)

*Bloomberg*

The Bank of Japan held off from monetary easing after expanding asset purchases in September and October, switching the focus to a December meeting where more measures are forecast to shore up a shrinking economy. The asset fund stayed at 66 trillion yen ($812b) and a credit-lending facility was unchanged at 25 trillion yen, the central bank said in Tokyo today after a two-day meeting.

[**China solar bailouts skew global market**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/fr/freetop.aspx)

*Nikkei*

Beijing and local governments in China have stepped in to help bail out the solar industry. Makers of solar cells in the East Asian country have fallen on dark times because of market oversupply. At the same time, China's aggressive pricing abroad recently led the U.S. government to slap anti-dumping duties on the country's crystalline silicon solar cells, in a move likely to heighten tensions. The EU is also considering taking measures against China. LDK Solar Co., based in Xinyu, Jiangxi Province, and Suntech Power Holdings Co., based in Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, have both received cash infusions from government-affiliated companies in their respective home bases.

[**China IT park looking to keep Japanese firms**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/ac/tnw/Nni20121119AP8DALIA.htm)

*Nikkei*

The management of Dalian Software Park Co. (DLSP) wants it known that despite the recent ill-will in China towards Japan, the industrial zone, and its city of Dalian, remains a good place for Japanese information technology companies to do software development and business process outsourcing. To this end, a delegation from DLSP will visit Japan at the end of November to meet with Japanese companies that have already moved to the park and to encourage other companies to continue to follow suit. DLSP currently has some 400 tenant companies, most of which are involved in software development or business process outsourcing. Around a quarter of those tenants are Japanese companies, and 80% are companies that do business directed toward Japan. Dalian has strong ties to Japan, and business related to IT and to outsourcing is thriving. Nissan Motor Co. is currently building a factory there and Japanese companies as a whole account for 30% of all foreign-affiliated companies in the city.

[**Mexico needs big telecoms infrastructure investments**](http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2012/11/02/regulator-mexico-needs-big-telecoms-infrastructure-investments/#ixzz2CqesUsTp)

*Fox News Latino*

Mexico's government must invest some 40 billion pesos ($3 billion) in telecommunications infrastructure to boost competition and spur investment by operators, the regulatory agency for the sector, Cofetel, said. The policy should be aimed at guaranteeing the greatest possible coverage of all telecommunications services and making them more affordable, mainly achievable by improving infrastructure to lower costs, Cofetel chief Mony de Swaan said. He told foreign correspondents that $769 million of the total recommended investment should be allocated for expanding state electric monopoly CFE's fiber-optic network, saying that would bring costs down for all the operators.

**November 19, 2012**

[**Mitsui, Tokyo Gas Unit Buy Brazilian Energy Service Firm**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/fr/tnks/Nni20121115D1511A12.htm)

*Nikkei*

TOKYO (Nikkei)--Mitsui & Co. and a Tokyo Gas Co. subsidiary announced Thursday their joint purchase of Brazil's largest cogeneration service company for more than 8 billion yen. Following the acquisition, Mitsui will own a 90% stake in Ecogen Brasil Participacoes SA and Energy Advance Co. will hold the remainder. The Brazilian firm has customers among paper and tire manufacturers, hotels and commercial buildings in major cities such as Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, boasting an installed generating capacity of around 130,000kw. It reported roughly 1.8 billion yen in sales in fiscal 2011.

[**DJ: Indonesia Trade Min Says New Asia Trade Pact On Course**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/fr/tnks/Nni20121119D19JF431.htm)

*Nikkei*

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia--The opening up of free trade talks between China, Japan and South Korea won't undermine the planned launch of negotiations for an Asia-wide trading pact tipped to be the world's largest, Indonesia's trade minister Gita Wirjawan said Monday. A Chinese government spokesman announced Sunday that talks on the possibility of launching free-trade negotiations will be held among senior officials from China, Japan and South Korea on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Cambodia.

[**Canada joins Pacific Alliance trade bloc talks as observer**](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hW5copJOqQqMA_J1x-sbdbQkyYug?docId=CNG.64e19b41dfc2879902449c51dbc27367.381)

*AFP*

OTTAWA — Canada has become an observer to the Pacific Alliance, a grouping of four of Latin America's fastest-growing economies, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, officials announced Thursday. Ablonczy announced the foot in the door during a travel stop in Bogota. She is leading a trade mission to Colombia, Panama and Peru on behalf of Fast.

[**New Renewable Energy Projects Equal To 1 Nuclear Reactor**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/fr/tnks/Nni20121116D1611N04.htm)

*Nikkei*

TOKYO (Nikkei)--Renewable energy projects that went online in Japan between April and October had a combined output of 1.15 million kilowatts, roughly equivalent to one nuclear reactor, according to government data released Friday. Output totaled 886,000kw for residential solar panels and 240,000kw for other projects tapping the sun's energy, including those installed on the roofs of factories and megasolar facilities, said the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry. Wind power projects generated 14,000kw and small hydroelectric projects produced just 3,000kw. There were no new geothermal facilities since such projects take about 10 years to launch.

[**DJ: Noda Instructs Govt To Compile Stimulus Package By Nov 30**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/fr/tnks/Nni20121116D16JF141.htm)

*Nikkei*

TOKYO--Japanese Finance Minister Koriki Jojima said Friday that Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda had instructed the government to compile a package of fiscal stimulus measures by Nov. 30 to support the economy during and after the upcoming general election, expected on Dec. 16. He said the package would be compiled from funds left over from the fiscal 2012 budget, and that the package was "indispensable given recent economic conditions."

**November 16, 2012**

[**Xi May Turn To Private Firms To Jump-Start China Economy**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/ac/tnks/Nni20121115D15HH033.htm)

Nikkei

China's new leader, Xi Jinping, has built a strong network of personal connections in the business world during his climb to the top of the political ladder, including ties to many tycoons in mainland China, Taiwan and elsewhere. Among those in Xi's address book are Lin Wenjing, an ethnic Chinese Indonesian who heads Rongqiao Group; Jason Hsuan, a top official with Taiwan-based TPV Technology Ltd.; Li Shufu, head of Zhejiang Geely Holding Group. Xi took over as general secretary of the Communist Party from Hu Jintao in a once-a-decade leadership change on Thursday. Xi spent most of his political career in Fujian Province, Zhejiang Province and Shanghai -- places with dynamic private companies. Xi was recognized as a rising star in the party early in his career, when he was an official in Fujian Province.

[**LDP Chief Hints At Joining TPP Talks**](http://e.nikkei.com/e/ac/tnks/Nni20121115D15SS051.htm)ç

Nikkei

Shinzo Abe, leader of the opposition Liberal Democratic Party, on Thursday hinted that his party may participate in talks over the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact if it takes power. Abe made the comments at a policy meeting with the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He said the LDP is capable of negotiating exceptions from tariff elimination, and that an LDP-led government may take part in the TPP talks if some items are allowed to be exempt from tariff elimination in preliminary talks.

[**Brazil and China Deepen Railroad Ties with Rio Subway Agreement**](http://english.cri.cn/)

CRI

In preparation for the 2014 soccer world cup and 2016 Olympic games, the city of Rio de Janeiro is upgrading its subway system. It is enlisting China’s assistance in this endeavor. Before Chinese involvement, the city of Rio had only ten air-conditioned subway cars, but with the help of CNR Changchun Railway Vehicles Co. and China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation, the system has changed dramatically. In June of this year, 30 Chinese-made and developed subway cars were delivered to Rio, and 26 are currently in use. More recently, on October 24th , the two companies entered into an agreement to supply the city with 60 more subway cars.

[**China Eager To Invest In Argentina**](http://www.mexicotradeandinvestment.com/)

Federal Government of Mexico

Chinese companies are aggressively looking to invest in Argentina, and while a majority of the deals between Chinese and Argentinian companies are focused in agribusiness and commodities, Chinese firms are also searching for opportunity in the Argentinian food and energy industries. A Chinese firm and the Argentinian province of La Roja recently signed an agreement to invest in the production of olives, olive oil, tomatoes and other agricultural products. Likewise, Chinese firm TCL Group announced a US$45 million investment in Salta’s oil industry.

[**China-Venezuela Fund Invests US$6.9 Billion In Venezuelan Assets**](http://informe21.com/)

Informe 21

In 2007, in order to facilitate commodity trades with Venezuela, China and Venezuela put together a fund to be used for investment in a range of Venezuelan projects. In 2012, China invested US$7 billion in Venezuela, with the majority of the investment—US$1.63 and US$1.25 billion, respectively—being invested in the energy and logistics industries.